

The
Heiser Houses
of Fayette County, Kentucky

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COL. JOHN KEISER HOUSE

#344 S. UPPER ST., LEXINGTON, FAYETTE COUNTY, KENTUCKY
BUILT BEF. 1818



Col. John KEISER, proprietor of the Lexington Hotel, purchased this house in January, 1832, and the deed stated it was "the same house built by Michael Clarke."

Investigation of the origin of the lot and its improvements developed that Michael Clarke, brother of a colored contractor of early Lexington, had built a log house here in 1805 or 1806. The brick must have been built in the early 1820's.

Col. KEISER met with financial stringency in 1837 and Deputy Sheriff James R. Sloan levied on "the household and tavern furniture also a house and lot bought of Michael Clark's heirs" and his slaves--"Aaron, Kitt, Rootes, Hampton, Philip, Malinda, Dinah, Luckey, Elizabeth and Ellen." The house and slaves were purchased July 10, 1837, by James E. Davis, Lexington's second mayor.

In June, 1839, Davis conveyed the house to John B. Johnson. 1838 Directory: "Mrs. Johnson, l.s. S Upper bet. High and Maxwell.")

Johnson and wife, Elizabeth M., sold the property in 1864 to James and Edward Shannon. (1838 Directory--John B. Johnson, saddle and harness maker, 29 E. Main St., res. 113 E. Main St. He was an officer in the local militia and member of the school board.)

The latter deed called for "certain houses and lots on Upper St. nearly opposite the late residence of Col. Durham," stating that "the lot contains a brick and a frame house" (where the newer house on the north now stands).

Edward Shannon and wife, Ellen, traded the property in 1877 to S.M. Hibler and wife, C.A., together with a house on Mill St., for a 283 acre farm on Hickman Creek.

Mack D. Richardson and Mrs. Lizzie Richardson next purchased the house, and sold it to John B. Randall in 1883. The latter conveyed it to Julia E. Ambrose in 1885, saying it was the same conveyed to Lizzie F. Gill by J.F. Ambrose. Elizabeth F. Gill's heirs sold it to Mrs. Emily Matheny in 1904.

(**Col. John KEISER** in 1859-60 was conducting an inn at south-east corner Market and Church, "James March House," and had a high-class and large group of distinguished patrons residing there).

Source: Old Houses of Lexington, C. Frank Dunn, typescript, n.d., copy located in the Kentucky Room, Lexington (Kentucky) Public Library.

Transcribed by pb, July 2006

https://sites.rootsweb.com/~kyfayett/dunn/keiser_john_col.htm

BENJ. C. KEISER RESIDENCE

#554 W. MAIN ST., LEXINGTON, FAYETTE COUNTY, KENTUCKY
BUILT 1829

William Morton, who built the house at the corner (#544-546-raised), acquired two lots in 1829 (Nos. 26 and 27) adjoining his corner property (the 1791 tannery) from Cornelius Coyle's executor. Each fronted 66 feet on Main and Water Streets.

It was then probably that he erected this as well as the corner residence, for rental purposes.

The first known occupant of this large house was mentioned in the deed to the corner property in 1837. The latter was described as fronting on Main St., about 66 feet and divided from the house formerly occupied by Mrs. Shields by a stone fence."

Benjamin C. KEISER bought the house in 1849 from Wm. Morton's heirs. **KEISER** is listed in the 1838 Directory as "bank messenger," then residing on South Broadway. in the 1859-60 Directory he is listed: "**Benj. C. KEISER**, messenger Branch Bank of Kentucky, south side Main St., between Lower and Locust."

In 1863, **KEISER** sold the house to the Geoghegan daughters, adjoining the house and lot sold by the Wm. Morton estate to Mrs. E. Geoghegan and now occupied as a residence by the second parties."

KEISER's release to the purchaser, signed on the margin of the recorded deed, was large and bold, but very "shaky," which verified the following concerning his advanced age, in Ranck's History:

(Early taverns) "**KEISER's** 'Indian Queen' stood at the corner of Hill and Broadway.--This 'house of entertainment' was kept by the grandfather of our highly respected **Mr. Ben KEISER**, now probably the oldest native resident of Lexington."

Perrin's History tells of Aaron Burr's visit to Lexington in October, 1806: "**Benjamin KEISER**, then a small boy, was the first to detect his presence. He saw a gentleman entering town on horseback followed by a white man-servant and

recognized him at once, for his always striking appearance had been indelibly impressed on the young boy's mind at an exhibition of wax-works which he had seen a short time before, in which the duel between Burr and Hamilton was represented.

"Col. Burr stopped at Wilson's Tavern, now the Phoenix Hotel. There he was welcomed by a small but distinguished party of relatives and friends, who had proceeded him to Lexington but a short time before. Among the number was his son-in-law, Joseph Alston, afterward governor of South Carolina, and who was loyal to him to the last; Harman Blennerhassett, the cultured and accomplished Irishman whom Burr had fascinated, and last but not least was Theodosia Alston, the idolized daughter of Burr, whom he vainly hoped to make the First Lady and honored mistress of an Imperial Court. A few years after this the gifted daughter of Burr went down in a vessel that was lost at sea, and it is stated as a noteworthy fact that Mrs. Van Prodelles, a Lexington lady and a connection of Mrs. Judge Hawes, of Paris, Kentucky, (Capt. Richard Hawes, Jr.) perished in the same ill-fated ship."

Source: Old Houses of Lexington, C. Frank Dunn, typescript, n.d., copy located in the Kentucky Room, Lexington (Kentucky) Public Library.

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https://sites.rootsweb.com/~kyfayett/dunn/KEISER_benj.htm

WM. S. KEISER HOUSE

#118 E. 3RD ST., LEXINGTON, FAYETTE COUNTY, KENTUCKY
BUILT 1840



General Leslie Combs laid off the block on East Third Street from Limestone to Walnut in April, 1837, and filed a plat of the lots numbered as follows: "Facing Limestone from south to north, Lots. Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4; facing Third Street

from west to east, Lots. Nos. 5 to 18, both inclusive; facing Walnut Street, from north to south, Lots Nos. 19, 20, 21, and 22.

He stated that he had "dedicated an alley and well of water for common use, the well to be thrown into the alley out of Lot No. 6."

To finance the sub-division, he borrowed \$25,000 from Henry Clay and Daniel Vertner, executing a mortgage to them in September, 1838, on the following property:

"Tract of 1,387 acres in the Parish of Concordia, Louisiana, being said Combs' plantation called La Belle Lake, on the waters of the Mississippi River; 'Babylon' the corner house (Lexington Herald Leader) and lot opposite the Northern Bank wherein said Combs has his office, and said Combs' dwelling house and lot called "Babel'." (Hernando Bldg., on Main St., across alley from Phoenix Hotel).

General Combs later paid Chilton Allen, and Wm. C. Sympson of Clark County, "\$2,000 in a land claim in Louisiana" (1839) for Combs' Square.

The Combs Square lots fronted 35 feet each on Third Street, to the Limestone and Walnut corner lots facing those streets and extending along Third Street about 96 feet and 99 feet respectively.

The first lot sold was No. 7, to George Crutcher November 12, 1838.

Wm. S. KEISER purchased Crutcher's lot January 2, 1841, and built this two-story red brick house--possibly the first on the Square.

KEISER sold the house in 1844 to John Prather, who conveyed it to his son, Lloyd Prather in 1846.

In January, 1856, Lloyd Prather and wife, Mary A., sold the residence to Thomas Christian.

The next century had arrived when the old red-brick again changed hands. In June, 1900, Thos. M. Christian and J.J. Willyard and wife, Lillie M., sold it to M.J. Sullivan.

Lloyd Prather must have sold the house to take over the farm of his father, John Prather, who died in February, 1865. He said in his will:

"I have been twice married. By my first marriage I have the following children: Lloyd Prather, Rutha Robertson, Sarah Cordry, Mary Jane Burress and Talitha Randall. By my present wife I have the following children: Wm. G. and Betsey Kate Prather, both now under the age of 21 years." He stated that he had given each sums from \$4,000 to \$5,800 in making bequests, and asked that "the farm on which we now reside" not be sold.

Source: Old Houses of Lexington, C. Frank Dunn, typescript, n.d., copy located in the Kentucky Room, Lexington (Kentucky) Public Library.

Transcribed by pb, July 2006

https://sites.rootsweb.com/~kyfayett/dunn/KEISER_wm_s.htm

MRS. LAKE - (A.T. SKILLMAN) HOUSE

177 N. LIMESTONE ST., LEXINGTON, FAYETTE COUNTY, KENTUCKY
"BATTLE ROW"

Source: *Old Houses of Lexington*, C. Frank Dunn, typescript, n.d., copy located in the Kentucky Room, Lexington (Kentucky) Public Library.

A deed of Henry Clay and wife to 66 feet on Upper Street, made to **John KEISER** in 1815, directed attention to this old house. The Upper Street property, it said, extended back "to the lot lately occupied by John Lake and James Wilson." **John KEISER's** deed, in 1816, said "Mrs Lake"--and that seems to have been correct, as this is "Mrs. Lake's" house and James Wilson lived next north.

James Wilson and Jannet, his wife, on June 24, 1800, sold Isabella Lake one-half of Lot No. 13--"33 feet on Mulberry St. between the lots now in occupancy of the said James Wilson and Simon Hickey," together "with the improvements." Wilson evidently erected the house--the 1806 Directory lists:

"James Wilson, carpenter, Mulberry St. _____ Wilson, cabinet-maker, Mulberry St." (Also, "Simon Hickey, Blacksmith, Mulberry St." The latter referred to Lot. No. 12).

Isabella Lake, in a mortgage to Peter January in 1800, described her half-lot as above. She deeded it, "together with the improvements," to John Carty in 1807, but must have removed the year before, as the 1806 Directory cites "Mrs. Lake, Main Street."

John Carty sold it in July, 1808, to Daniel M. Troutman.

The next deed--May 4, 1821--was from John Hedges, executor of Peter Troutman, of Bourbon County, KY, to Jacob Troutman, reading as follows:

"Same conveyed to John Carty by Isabella Lake, and by Carty to Daniel M. Troutman, having departed this life without issue or heir, therefore his father, Peter Troutman, dec'd was his heir-at-law, and Peter Troutman in his last will authorized his executor to sell the above-named estate."

Peter Troutman, "being well stricken in years but in perfect state of health," made his will and appointed his two sons-in-law, George Hutsel and John Hedges, his executors "to sell all my estate, both real and personal, namely my house and lot in Lexington." The proceeds were to be divided among his eight children: Jacob Troutman, Frederick Shryock and wife, Fanny; Nancy Low, Adam Troutman, John Hedges and wife, Caty; George Hutsel and wife, Mary; Leonard Troutman, and John Hutsel and wife, Rebeckah. The will was made in November, 1819, and probated in January, 1821.

Jacob Troutman paid \$1,000 for the house, and the record in the inventory of Peter Troutman's estate showed "Peggy Watkins" had rented the house from January 1 to April 1, 1821, before it was sold.

In August, 1828, Jacob Troutman and his wife, Mary, evidently residing here, conveyed the property to John B. Johnson who handled considerable real estate.

Abraham T. Skillman, in March 1832, bought the house from Johnson and wife, Elizabeth M. It was Skillman's first real estate transaction--he appears in other deeds in the houses on these tours. The 1838 Directory shows his residence here: A.T. Skillman, bookseller and stationer 4 E. Main St., 41 N. Mulberry.

Skillman and wife, Elizabeth R., sold the property in December, 1852, to Merit P. Lancaster. The deed recited the entire chain from Isabella Lake--John Carty--Daniel M. Troutman--Peter Troutman--John Hedges, exor.--Jacob Troutman--John B. Johnson to Skillman, so there was no chance of losing the continuity.

The next deed was in 1895--A.B. Lancaster and J. Hull Davidson to John W. Lancaster, "for love and affection, he being the nephew of M.P. Lancaster and first cousin of A.B. Lancaster and Mrs. J.H. Davison." It was deeded as "one-half of Lot. No. 13, McDermid's Square and the same conveyed by A.T. Skillman and wife to M.P. Lancaster Dec, 27, 1852." It had descended "on the death of M.P. Lancaster, a widower March 1, 1895, to A.B. Lancaster and Mrs. Magdalene L. Davidson, only children and heirs."

John W. Lancaster and wife, Sallie P., sold the house in 1901 to Jos. Dinelli.

R.T. and J.T. Anderson bought the house and after their death it was conveyed by Richard T. Anderson to G.A. Roy in 1912. Roy conveyed to D.W. Arnett, who sold to Mrs. Maria H. Terrell.

The residents and property owners of this block, called "Battle Row," in the 1807 tax records, were listed at that time by the assessor as follows:

Robert Russell, one "frain house" Mulberry St. and one Brick adjoining; Henry Ball, Unfinished house on Mulberry St.; Blunt, Campbell & Co. (evidently tenant in "frain house"); Simon Hickey, one house Mulberry St., one shop Mulberry St., and one lot occupied by James Rose; David Belert (tenant, not taxed), and John Anderson, one house on Mulberry St.

Transcribed by Pam Brinegar, March 2000

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~kyfayett/dunn/limestone177.htm>

DR. DAVID BELL HOUSE

316 SOUTH BROADWAY, LEXINGTON, FAYETTE COUNTY, KENTUCKY
BUILT 1845

Source: *Old Houses of Lexington*, C. Frank Dunn, typescript, n.d., copy located in the Kentucky Room, Lexington (Kentucky) Public Library.

Be prepared for a "load" of history in connection with this location. The story of this south-west corner of Broadway and High St., necessary to introduce the "Polly Adams House," goes back more than 160 years to Lexington's "fort on the hill."

The siege of Bryan Station in August, 1782, quickly followed by the ill-fated Battle of Blue Licks, where "the flower of the manhood of the West" fell and "many widows were made in Lexington," to use Daniel Boone's words, greatly alarmed the inhabitants of Lexington.

"They set to and built a large fort, very strong and surrounded with a ditch on the outside, up where **KEISER's** lot (afterwards) was, right opposite to Caldwell's on the hill. ... This fort was intended to be cannon-proof." (Wymore in Draper MSS - Staples History).

Wymore's statement that the fort was opposite Caldwell's and "where **KEISER's** lot afterwards was" is fully borne out by the deeds to this corner.

After danger of an organized Indian attack upon Lexington ceased, Moses Patterson purchased the lot (Outlot "R"), which extended south to Maxwell St. and west on High St. half-way to Spring St.

Patterson sold the lot to **Christopher KEISER**, who operated one of Lexington's earliest taverns, "The Indian Queen," on this corner. George Adams, wealthy Lexington merchant, bought the outlot from **Christopher KEISER** - and that's where the story of this house, today considerably back on Broadway from the corner, begins.

A deed to Polly Adams September 30, 1833, by Sheriff, for the High Street (Broadway to Spring) half of Outlot "R" stated that a Fayette Circuit Court writ for some \$2,500 had been levied on "a lot of ground situated at the corner of Hill and Main Cross Sts., containing four acres (suit in favor of George Adams vs. **John KEISER, Elizabeth KEISER, Adam KEISER** and Mary Irwin, heirs of **Christopher KEISER**, dec'd., William Macbean, Joseph Claar, and **Benjamin KEISER**). The lot was sold by the Sheriff September 4, 1822, and George Adams purchased it for \$2,667.17.

"By Adams' order one-half of said lot was conveyed to Robert Wickliffe, and said Adams having departed this life without a deed being made to him for the other half," a suit was instituted by Polly Adams and John Adams against George Adams' heirs for the other half. By court decree June, 1830, the Sheriff was directed to convey to Polly Adams "the part of said lot not conveyed to Robert Wickliffe." As Robert Wickliffe sold his half to John McMurtry, which makes the starting point for some other houses here on Broadway, the above data is cited in detail.

Polly Adams sold the lot March 24, 1841, to Hugh Loney. It extended 205 feet south on Broadway from the corner "to Robert Wickliffe's lot" and west to the line of William Bell ("Wm. Bell House").

Dr. David Bell purchased it from Loney and built and occupied the house here. Adjoining deeds mentioned his living here and a deed of Dr. S.M. Letcher to Dr. Bell for the north-west corner of Broadway and High in 1847 said the latter was "opposite the residence of said Bell." The houses from here to High Street have been built more recently.

Dr. Bell and wife, Charlotte (daughter of Chief Justice George Robertson), sold "that house and lot on the corner of Broadway and Hill St. on which the said Bell and wife now reside" June 9, 1858, to J.R. Dunlap for \$11,500.

John T. Miller purchased the residence in 1863, and James M. Graves bought it in 1887. The latter's daughter, Mrs. George C. Webb, resides here today.

When Dr. Bell bought the lot from Hugh Loney April 11, 1845, **KEISER's** old tavern must have been here still. The deed called for "the buildings, improvements, premises and appurtenances." The conveyance further stated: "It is understood that said Hugh Loney has leased to Shryock and Walker part of the land by written lease dated Sept. 10, 1842, which lease is also assigned to said Bell." The deed was "not to affect the lease" other than to assign it to Dr. Bell.

The next month (May, 1845 Dr. Bell sold John McMurtry 13 feet between his and Wm. Bell's lot on High Street, "to be kept open always as a street." McMurtry then opened "Brown Street," as it is known today, from High to Maxwell Streets.

Transcribed by pb October 2002

https://sites.rootsweb.com/~kyfayett/dunn/bell_david_two.htm

ROBERT KING HOUSE

W. SHORT (CORNER FELIX ST.), LEXINGTON, FAYETTE COUNTY, KENTUCKY
BUILT 1836



"Robert King, Carpenter, l.s. W. Short St., below Spring St." had just moved into his newly completed residence of the builder, and a commodious one, when this listing appeared in the 1838 Directory. (He and Capt. Macey Thwaits had just completed, also, Capt. Thwaits' and his double house at #640 W. Short St.)

The house was built on historic and sacred ground, the old log Catholic Church, erected in 1802, or sooner, having been razed to begin the construction of this large brick building.

The Catholic Church property (OutlotNo. 19) extended from Main to Short Streets, and when it was disposed of July 25, 1836, the deed was between the Rt. Rev. Benedict Joseph Floget, Bishop of Bardstown, by the Rt. Rev. Guy J. Chabrat, his attorney in fact, of Nelson county, and Benj. B. Ford, Elzy Harney and **William J. Keiser**, of Fayette County.

The consideration was "the sum of \$850 in Bricklayers work and materials done and furnished by the sd. Ford, Harney and Keiser on and for the now Catholic Church on Limestone St. in Lexington." (St. Catherine's Academy).

The property was described as "a certain lot situate between Main and Short Sts., fronting on both streets by actual admeasurement 71' on both streets, being the lot on which the old log Catholic Chapel stands, and separated from the old Baptist burying ground by an alley of 20 feet."

At least two of the trio that bought the church lot were in the building trade—Elzy Harney, "bricklayer" (1838 Directory) who already had built himself a home on "W. Short St. above Jefferson," and Benj. Ford, "brickmaker and layer," who lived near Harney. So when they sold the church lot—or rather the Short Street half of the lot—to Robert King December 26, 1836, this house probably was well under construction. The doorway and other features attest to the excellent workmanship on it.

King died in 1845 and his executors by Commissioner conveyed the house to two purchasers, who bought at public auction. Catherine Marsh bought the corner house, and Rebecca C. King the adjoining house. The latter was described as being "between the Theatre lot and the house of Mrs. Marsh."

(St. Joseph's Hospital rented the structure in 1874. They next were in "Aylesford" and finally removed to their present location on 2nd Street.)

Rebecca C. King sold her part of the house October 30, 1847, to John M. Hewett, "truss and bandage maker." Hewett died here in 1851 and his late home acquired a strange career. He appointed his son, Dr. Robert Carson Hewett, of Louisville, Ky., and his son-in-law, Purnell Bishop, "merchant of the City of Lexington, Ky." executors to act as trustees of the house for his wife and children. (Hewett had his shop in July, 1829, "Short St. opposite Wickliffe's Tavern" N.W. cor. Short and Mill).

Hewett had suggested in his will that his home be rented after his death. His son, being in Louisville, evidently did not have the opportunity to look after the property personally and probably appointed an agent to rent it. From 1851 to 1861 this seems to have been the case.

Lewis Robards, slave dealer, had bought "the Theatre" next door, late in 1850, and proceeded to convert it into a slave jail and market.

By 1854 Robards had rented half of the King house and installed offices on the first floor and parlors on the second floor for exhibition to Southern buyers of his "choice stock."

Suit was instituted against Robards and the slave jail was sold by the Sheriff in March, 1861. Rumblings of what had happened to the "rent residence" next door must have reached Louisville, as Dr. Hewett in October, 1861, deeded the residence as a gift to his sister, Mrs. Purnell Bishop.

Source: *Old Houses of Lexington*, C. Frank Dunn, typescript, n.d., copy located in the Kentucky Room, Lexington (Kentucky) Public Library.

Transcribed by pb, July 2006

https://sites.rootsweb.com/~kyfayett/dunn/king_robert.htm

WM. BELL HOUSE

420 W. HIGH ST. (COR. BROWN ST.), LEXINGTON, FAYETTE COUNTY, KENTUCKY
BUILT 1818

Source: *Old Houses of Lexington*, C. Frank Dunn, typescript, n.d., copy located in the Kentucky Room, Lexington (Kentucky) Public Library.

William Bell, inventor who sold profits on his patents to Nathan Burrowes, the famous mustard manufacturer, and to John McMurtry, the noted architect, had his friend Burrowes make a plat of a "two-story brick house" and lot he had just purchased from John Fisher January 20, 1821, "whereupon sd. John Fisher now lives." (1818 Dir.: John Fisher, Brickmaker and bricklayer, High St.) 1818 Dir: William Bell, Planemaker, High St.

Burrowes sketched the residence, a stable immediately behind the house (today part of the west half of the house) and one considerably back of it (behind an adjoining lot of Maj. Wm. S. Dallam) and a 44 foot alley on the east (today

widened to _____ Street). It was bounded by High St., the "Keiser heirs' corner," Wm. Macbean's lot and Major Dallam's small lot.

The deed said it was "the lot whereon John Fisher now lives on High St., conveyed to him by Jesse Moore, of Montgomery County, Ky., December 5, 1801, part of outlot S.

On March 11, 1821, Bell bought Major Dallam's property - "a red framed house and lot adjoining John Fisher's brick house. This house and lot was deeded to said Dallam by Thos. H. Pindell, who bought it at public sale from Fisher.

William Bell recorded a \$20,000 bond of Nathan Burrowes August 5, 1819, wherein Burrowes was to pay the expense of procuring a patent and to derive one-half the profits on a riding machine invented by Bell. The "machine or carriage" was described as "the economical carriage moved by manual labor."

In 1838, obtained a patent "for a saw-mill for sawing shingles, staves &c," and contracted with John McMurtry in 1847 to pay him one-half the profits "for vending said patent for the state of Kentucky."

John McMurtry bought the property April 8, 1847, it being next to "the residence and lot of Dr. David Bell" (William's brother). McMurtry sold it in 1854 to Dr. Bell, the side-alley now being 12 feet. Dr. Bell and his wife lived here until they moved to Spring St. Farmer Dewees got judgment against Dr. David Bell in 1858 and the house was sold at public auction the next year.

Judge George Robertson, the father-in-law of Dr. Bell, bought "the Western half of the house and lot - called the Bell House," (29 ft.) and Mallory Martin purchased "the East half of the double-house (46 ft.) conveyed by Wm. Bell to John McMurtry."

Judge Robertson conveyed his half of the house "called the Bell Place" to John Davis December 17, 1861, and Martin and wife (of Jessamine County) their half to Miss Louisa D. Ross June 30, 1862.

John David and wife sold the "Western half of the entire house and lot called the Bell property" to Henry Wolf in 1864, and Wolf conveyed it to Jacob David in July, 1876.

Julia David, widow and administratrix of Jacob David, brought suit against other heirs and the "Western half of the Bell property" was sold at public auction.

"Adolphus Ochs" (the noted publisher of the New York Times, who died recently) was the purchaser, in 1882.

Adolph S. Ochs and Effie M., wife, "of Chattanooga, Tenn.," sold their half of the house - still "called the Bell property" - October 6, 1883, to Julia F. Ambrose, who sold it in 1892 to Luke U. Milward.

Thus "the house that Jack built" has survived more than 120 years - which in itself is quite a tribute to John Fisher, a pioneer brickmaker - and seems in a fair way to carry the name of the inventor, William Bell, on for many more years.

The rear side walls of the house show the original house built by Fisher.

The following interesting ad appeared in the Kentucky Gazette April 9, 1830, signed by William Bell and followed by testimonials:

"The subscriber has invented and will exhibit to such of his fellow citizens as will call at his house on High St., a PATENT BEDSTEAD combining simplicity with utility...the undersigned continues to make Planes of various descriptions. Jan. 15, 1830."

The first testimonial was signed "Ashland, H. Clay, Jan. 5, 1830," and was as follows:

"I have used in my family the patent bedsteads of Mr. Wm. Bell, of Lexington, and found them greatly superior to those in common use. Being constructed so that the posts are put together without screws, they are stronger and less liable to get out of order. They will hardly ever require any precaution to destroy bugs, as they afford no place of retreat to them."

Asa Blanchard and Samuel Pilkington stated that they use the patent bedsteads, that they were easy to put up, were secure against bugs and combined all the advantages that could be desired.

A joint testimonial, saying the bed "affords no hiding place for bugs," was signed by John Brand, Elisha I. Winters, J. Harper, Archibald Logan, Oliver Keen, Daniel Bradford, Joseph Ficklin, John Roche, Robert Frazer, A.K. Smedes, Dr. Chas. W. Short, Dr. Chas. Caldwell and Thos. P. Hart.

Transcribed by pb October 2002

https://sites.rootsweb.com/~kyfayett/dunn/bell_william.htm